

OFFICERS THINK THEY HAVE THE MEN WHO TRIED TO KILL WELLS

"Mickey" Keith Confesses That Lawrence Piercy, ex-Police-man of Lexington, Engineered the Dastardly Crime

Due to the untiring efforts of Deputy Sheriff Sant Bush, Sheriff P. S. Whitlock, of Madison county, and Assistant Chief of Police Ernest Thompson, of Lexington, assisted by a Louisville detective, two men charged with kidnapping Pete M. Wells of College Hill, this county, and then attempting to shoot him to death on the Lexington pike, on the night of December 2, are now confined in the Madison county jail.

The two suspects are Lawrence Piercy, a former Lexington policeman, who was arrested a few days ago, charged with complicity in the robbery of the Ripy distillery at Tyrone, and Mickey Keith, both of Lexington.

They were brought to jail here Saturday night about midnight by Chief Thompson and Lieut. Hanley, Detectives Maloney and Donlan, and Patrolman Grant of Lexington.

They were brought here separately, and questioned thoroughly by the officers. After considerable sweating Keith said he was willing to tell what he knew of the affair. Mrs. Charles Stanifer was sent for and took down Keith's sworn confession in which he detailed the ride he took with Piercy and a man named "Monk" Wilson on the night of the crime.

Wilson was said by the Lexington officers to be in Newport or Covington, and officers there were notified to arrest him at once.

Although Keith told of the ride over and the abducting and assault made upon Wells, he did not make clear the motive, in his confession. Lexington officers, however, indicated that a woman was at the bottom of the affair, and that the sum of \$2,000 was to be paid for accomplishing the murder of Wells.

There is much mystery about the motive for the attempt made on Wells' life that has not yet come out, and may not do so until the full facts are told on trial of the men charged with the crime.

County Judge W. K. Price was desirous of holding examining trial of the men at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon. Piercy said that he has telephoned to Attorney Harry Miller, of Lexington, and could not say whether he would be ready or not until Mr. Miller had come over. Keith said he was ready for trial. He has engaged Attorney A. R. Burnam, of this city, to look after his interests.

The story of the capture of the men charged with this crime, which was one of the boldest and most cold-blooded ever attempted in this part of the state, leads back to the persistence of Deputy Sheriff Sant P. Bush and Sheriff Whitlock to unravel the mystery of the affair.

Due to the insistence of the local officers, Mr. Wells engaged Detective M. J. Donahue, of Louisville, who was in Lexington investigating the distillery robbery to look into the Wells case. Wells went to Lexington with the local officers and told of the auto robe which was in the bottom of the car, when he was dragged into it, bleeding and injured.

"Why I can take you right to the robe and the car," said the detective, and then he told of having found them in a garage controlled by Piercy.

It was then decided that Wells was to go to Lexington Friday to see if he could identify Piercy. Wells was standing in the hall of the federal building on the second floor when Piercy came up the steps to appear at the examining trial on a charge of being implicated in the robbery of the Ripy distillery. As Piercy came up the steps Wells saw him and crossed the hall to one of the detectives and said, "That is the fellow who

shot me."

Deputy Sheriff Sant Bush had warrants ready for both Piercy and Keith and they were arrested Saturday night and brought here immediately. Both were well dressed and Piercy had several diamonds in a handsome scarf pin.

After the confession of Keith had been transcribed from short hand notes, Detective M. J. Donahue, of Louisville, read the confession to Piercy and he laughed declaring it was a lie, adding, "When I get out of this I am going to get somebody."

Lexington officers say that Piercy is one of the most dangerous and desperate men ever known there. He is out on \$5,000 bond in connection with the distillery robbery charges, and must appear in federal court at Lexington Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, unless other arrangements are made. The Lexington officers have urged that his bond in connection with the Madison county cases be made high enough to hold him.

The warrants sworn out here against the three men charge them with "arresting and abducting" Wells without warrant or law and also with attempting to kill him. The limit penalty for the first charge is 20 years in the penitentiary and on the latter charge five years.

Keith was recognized by Wells as the "clunky" man who sought to dissuade his companions from killing Wells when they got across the Clay's Ferry bridge on the fateful night. According to the story Wells told at the time, Keith got out of the car and walked away while Piercy and Wilson walked on down the hill, and two shots were fired at Wells.

Officers said that Keith says he begged Piercy not to do it.

Keith said that since that night he had been unable to sleep for thinking of the affair. He declared that since then he had talked with Piercy and the latter told him that in a few days they would be able to divide some money for that "job," according to Mr. Thompson.

"I told him I didn't want any of his money," Keith is quoted as saying.

Mr. Wells has about recovered from his close call from death, and save for a bandage over his nose where he was struck by the butt of the pistol, bears no visible scar. The bullet wound through his neck has completely healed.

The attack upon him stirred the entire community at the time. He was at the home of his cousin, Walter Wells, at College Hill, about 12 miles east of Richmond, when a big car drove up and he was called out. One of the men whom he has identified as Piercy, told him that Mrs. Simmie McCreary had started to his home in a taxicab and that the automobile had been overturned in the road and she was seriously injured.

She had been taken to the hospital in Richmond, they said, and had asked that he come to her bedside. They then asked him to get a bucket of water for their automobile. According to Wells, as he was pouring the water into the radiator, Piercy struck him across the bridge of the nose with the butt end of his pistol, knocking him to the ground. Piercy then struck Wells twice on the top of his head with the gun. Piercy and his third man, who "Mickey" Keith in his confession said was "Monk" Wilson, threw Wells into the back of the car. Wells sat on the seat with his head in his hands, his elbows resting on his knees.

He was bleeding profusely from the nose and the blood fell on the blanket which was lying in the bottom of the car.

Wells said that driving through Richmond he was seated between Piercy and Monk Wilson, each of them had a gun at his side and threatened to kill him if he cried out. The Madison farmer stated that he was abused all the time by the two men and that

KEITH TELLS HOW PIERCY TRIED TO ASSASSINATE PETE WELLS

The confession of "Mickey" Keith, of Lexington, as dictated and sworn to by him about midnight Saturday night before Mrs. Charles Stanifer at the Richmond court house, detailing the kidnapping and assault upon P. M. Wells, was as follows:

"I was standing at the bar in Tommy Barnes' soft drink stand when Piercy and 'Monk' Wilson asked me if I wanted to take a ride. I agreed as I wanted a drink very bad and they had two quarts of moonshine. I got in the auto but did not know where we were going, and took a few drinks on the way out. Nothing as said to me about where we were going. We stopped in front of a house and Piercy went to the door of Wells' residence and knocked. Upon Mr. Wells answering, Piercy asked, 'Does Mr. Wells live here?' He replied, 'he does.' Piercy then told him, Mrs. McCreary was on her way out here in a taxi and it turned over and seriously injured her. She is in the hospital in Richmond and wants to see you."

"I do not know whether Wells agreed to go or not. I did not hear Piercy ask for the water for the radiator but Mr. Wells brought a bucket of water and poured it in the radiator. Just as he was finishing pouring the water, Piercy hit Wells on the bridge of the nose with the butt end of his pistol, knocking him down and then struck him twice on the top of the head with the gun."

"Monk' Wilson and Piercy then threw Wells in the car and drove away. When we got about half a mile below a little store as we drove toward Lexington, they were abusing Wells so badly I asked them what they were going to do with him. One of them replied, 'we are going to knock him off.' 'I said, 'Gee whiz, can't you get what you want without doing that?'"

"Then they stopped the car and Piercy said to me, 'Here, you walk up the road.' I started up the road and Wells got out of the car at their orders and they told him to walk. Piercy commanded, 'Don't walk so fast there.' Wells slowed up. Piercy then ordered him to turn his head. He must have turned it wrong because he ordered him to turn it the other way. Then Piercy shot twice. They left him lying there and picked me up and we drove straight to Lexington and got out of the car at Fourth and Broadway."

Mickey Keith remonstrated with them.

Wells stated that after leaving his home, the men asked him, "where is that thousand-dollar diamond you have." Wells replied, "It is at home but I will get it for you if that is what you want." The officers think that this was only an attempt to create the impression that robbery was the motive of the attack.

They drove on until they reached the top of the hill from Clay's Ferry about one-half mile from the store of Wm. Rhorer.

At this point they stopped the car and told Keith to get out and walk on up the road. Wells was then ordered to walk down the road. He stepped off at a brisk gait and was commanded not to walk so fast. Piercy then told him to turn his head. Wells obeyed and was told to turn his head the other way. Piercy, who was only a few feet from him then, according to Wells, shot him, the bullet striking him in the neck. The gun was so close that Wells was powder-burned, he said.

Wells fell to the ground, and Monk Wilson exclaimed, "Better be sure you've got him." Wells declared, Piercy then fired again at Wells as he lay prostrate on the ground.

The men after shooting Wells got in the automobile and drove away, picking up Keith who was further up the road. Wells later staggered to his feet and made his way to a nearby store, from where he was taken to the Gibson hospital here.

There is a reward of \$750 for the arrest and conviction of the assailants of Wells. \$500 offered by him and \$250 by Gov. Morrow for the state. Those who are familiar with the steps that have been taken to bring the criminals to justice in the case, say that Deputy Sheriff Sant Bush of this city should deserve a large share of the reward for his untiring efforts to solve it ever since the crime occurred. They say the Lexington officers would never have had a clew about the matter had it not been for him and his fine work.

The Lexington papers say that the charge against Piercy makes the third that has been placed against him in the last week. One of the allegations against him was made by federal authorities, one by the city of Lexington, and the latest in a state warrant. The former patrolman is charged with breaking into and removing whisky from a bonded warehouse by local prohibition agents, as the result of a raid on the T. B. Ripy distillery at Tyrone a week ago last Thursday. A charge of carrying concealed weapons is pending against him in police court there.

The Lexington officers say they found a quantity of TNT

Examining Trials Wednesday

Examining trials of Piercy and Keith will be held in county court here Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. County Judge W. K. Price announced about noon Monday.

He said Attorney Harry Miller of Lexington, had phoned him that he would be here at that time to represent Piercy.

SHOOTING FEUD ON JACK'S CREEK

News of a shooting affray on Jack's Creek was brought to County Judge W. K. Price early Monday morning by two young men who said their names were Callahan and West. The former had a wound in his face, said to have been received in the trouble. He said that he believed that he had been shot at by a man named Todd and some of his friends and that it was a mistake. He thought the Todds and the Hoskins were engaged in a little feud down that way and the Todds mistook him for their enemies. County Price sent the boys to County Attorney Jackson to swear out any warrants that they might want. Sheriff Whitlock and Deputy Sheriff Bush were phoned for Sunday night during the trouble referred to, but they were unable to locate it when they got down in that country.

BILL BAKER FINDS KING IN MIDDLETOWN

A dispatch from Hamilton, O., to the Cincinnati Enquirer Sunday said:

Hamilton, O., Dec. 18—John Q. King, arrested in Middletown last Monday by Sheriff Bill Baker, of Jackson county, Ky., on a charge of having shot to kill the Sheriff, confined there for two days and brought to Hamilton prison until extradition papers could be obtained, today was arraigned for a hearing before Judge Walter S. Harlan, of the Common Pleas Court, on habeas corpus proceedings. His counsel, Clinton E. Egbert, said that King did not cause the trouble that had resulted in his arrest and detention. He said that the Sheriff had shot first. Judge Harlan continued the hearing for a week and placed King under \$500 bail. The defense asserted that the case would be ignored by the Kentucky Sheriff, who left for his home in Jackson county.

and dynamite in the garage at the rear of 426 South Broadway, where they found the blood-stained blanket.

HARVEY TALKS FRANCE INTO LINE

(By Associated Press)
Washington, Dec. 19—Secretary Hughes is understood to have received a cablegram from London today stating that as a result of a conference between Premier Briand, of France, and American Ambassador Harvey France was expected to accept the American proposals for limitation of capital ships.

LEGION TO SEE AFTER DISABLED ON XMAS

(By Associated Press)
Indianapolis, Dec. 19—Disabled veterans and their dependents in every community in the United States will be cared for Christmas day by American Legion members, according to plans announced today by national headquarters of the ex-service men's organization.

Visits to the homes of sick and wounded ex-service men and to their families will be made by the Legionnaires and special committees will take care of the men still in hospitals. Entertainment and presents will be provided for the incapacitated veterans.

"This is not a charity affair," said Hamilton McNider, National Commander of the Legion. "It is the Christmas thought of one ex-service man for another who would expect his buddies to remember him if the position were reversed. It does not matter whether the disabled had a Legion man or not; it is a Christmas greeting between ex-service men."

LITTLE FARM SELLS AT \$212 PER ACRE

Col. Long Tom Chenault was on the job last Saturday. In the morning he conducted a land sale of 35 acres for R. M. Pamey, of the Irvine pike. Spirited bidding prevailed and it was finally knocked off to a Mr. Winkler of the Chenault place, at the splendid figure of \$221 an acre. In the afternoon Long Tom sold the household goods for Mrs. Calvin Taylor at her home on Broadway, and splendid prices were realized.

Jumps Off Bridge
(By Associated Press)
Louisville, Dec. 19—An unidentified man about 35, leaped from the railroad bridge into the river here today. He was taken on dead.

Crocker Seriously Ill
(By Associated Press)
Pryor, Oklahoma, Dec. 19—A cablegram received today by relatives here stated that Richard Crocker, former New York Tammany chief, is seriously ill in Ireland.

Crocker Is 80
(By Associated Press)
New York, Dec. 19—Political friends of Richard Crocker at Tammany Hall expressed keen regret over the Oklahoma reports of his serious illness in Ireland. Crocker, 80 years old, sailed last July from New York for Ireland, where he owns extensive estates. Before leaving he forgave the children he had previously denounced as ingrates after they failed to prove him incompetent to manage his own affairs.

Lindenfeld Talks In Warsaw
(By Associated Press)
Warsaw, Dec. 19—Wolf Lindenfeld, arrested here in connection with the Wall Street bomb explosion in September 1920, has made three separate statements to the police one of which showed he paid a Soviet agent. He said he saw "Big Bill" Haywood in Moscow, who told him he intended to visit Mexico when the time seems propitious.

Abandoned Mine Becomes Shelter For Distillery
London, Dec. 19—In an abandoned mine on the Dyche farm, officers found and destroyed a large still of unknown ownership.

FOR RENT—Steam heated room. Phone 490. 300 4

The Weather
Generally cloudy tonight and Tuesday, probably rain Tuesday in west and central portion; not much change in temperature.

Today's Livestock Markets
Cincinnati, Dec. 19—Cattle demoralized, absolutely nothing selling; packing hogs 25c higher; Chicago 10c higher.
Louisville, Dec. 19—Cattle 1700 slow, tops \$7; hogs 1500, 25c lower, tops \$7; sheep 50, steady, \$2.50; lambs \$9.

ROBERTS ON FIRST; BO ON SECOND

Collier's Weekly, for Dec. 24th out on news stands today gives Walter Camp's All American football teams with Bo McMillan, the premier of them all, left off the first team and placed on the second. The first three teams are given as follows:

FIRST ELEVEN
End—Muller, California
Tackle—Stein, Wash. and Jefferson
Guard—Schwab, Lafayette
Center—Vick, Michigan
Guard—Brown, Harvard
Tackle—McGuire, Chicago
End—Roberts, Centre (Danville)
Quarter—A. Devine, Iowa
Fullback—Killing, Penn. State
Halfback—Aldrich, Yale
Fullback—Kaw, Cornell

SECOND ELEVEN
End—Swanson, Nebraska
Tackle—Stater, Iowa
Guard—Trott, Ohio State
Center—Larsen, Annapolis
Guard—Bedenk, Penn. State
Tackle—Keck, Princeton
End—Kiley, Notre Dame
Quarter—McMillan, Centre (Danville)
Fullback—Owen, Harvard
Halfback—Davies, Pittsburgh
Fullback—Mohardt, Notre Dame

THIRD ELEVEN
End—Crisler, Chicago
Tackle—Ingo, Yale
Guard—Forsyth, Nebraska
Center—Stein, Pittsburgh
Guard—Whitlock, Georgia
Tackle—McMillan, California
End—Stephens, California
Quarter—Laurie, Princeton
Halfback—French, West Point
Fullback—Bachet, Annapolis
Fullback—Barron, Georgia Tech

LOUISVILLE BAD MAN AT WORK AGAIN

(By Associated Press)
Louisville, Dec. 19—Earl Hatzell, who shot down a county policeman here in 1917, early today shot two policemen, one seriously when they endeavored to persuade him to go home. He is said to have been intoxicated. Hatzell also is under indictment on a charge of manslaughter in connection with the death of a pedestrian whom he is charged with running down with an automobile.

Government Wins

(By Associated Press)
Washington, Dec. 19—The government in the Supreme Court today won its suit to compel the American Hardwood Manufacturers Association to terminate cooperative selling methods and agreements alleged to have been adopted for the purpose of eliminating competition among themselves and to maintain and increase prices.

Three Bankrupts File Papers

Three petitions in bankruptcy have been filed in the office of Deputy Federal Clerk Miss Sara Monday here. Wilson Alexander, of Hubble, Lincoln county, a farmer, gives his liabilities at \$53,033.85 and his assets at \$22,230. He claims as exempt \$300 on household furniture.

W. A. Justice, of Danville, Boyle county, a railroad brakeman, gives liabilities as \$333.66 and total assets of \$100.78 with \$67.50 claimed as exemption.
M. D. Johnson, of Garrard county, a farmer, gives his assets at \$2,252.20; liabilities \$7,404.21, and claims as exempt \$418.75.

Moonshine Kills Boy

Stearns, Ky., Dec. 19—Joseph Strunk, 16, died at Sand Hill after partaking of moonshine whiskey. He was not accustomed to drinking liquor, and his death was attributed to alcoholic poisoning.

FOR RENT—Four room house on Linden street. Call A. H. Thomas, phone 569. 300 2

GREAT EXCITEMENT AS DAIL DEBATES TREATY

Arthur Griffith and De Valera Debate Before Vote Is Finally Taken

(By Associated Press)
Dublin, Ireland, Dec. 19—The Dail Eireann met today to consider motions for and against ratification of the Anglo-Irish treaty. The fight of Arthur Griffith for ratification and Eamonn DeValera for rejection were the outstanding features. Intense excitement prevailed with applause about equal for the speakers. DeValera asserted that the treaty did not reconcile Irish national aspirations with association with Great Britain. Griffith urged the treaty's adoption saying "any Irishman can, with honor, take the oath of allegiance to King George."

FARMERS NEED PURE SEED PROTECTION

(By Associated Press)
Lexington, Ky., Dec. 19—Definite action has been taken by the Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky, in a resolution adopted at its last meeting, against legislation proposed by representatives of certain state organizations to remove seed, fertilizer and pure seed control work from the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station. The resolution sets forth that the board opposes the advocated changes which it characterizes as "adverse measures directed against the interests of the general public and those of the farmers of the state."

The resolution resulted from consideration given the proposals by the Board of Trustees. In the final paragraph it directs officers of the institution "to take such action as will prevent the removal of this work and thereby insure the best interests of the farmer."

According to terms of the resolution, the board believes that if the proposed legislation is carried out it not only will be adverse to the interests of the farmers, but also would cripple the work of the Experiment Station. It is pointed out in the resolution that the work has been a fundamental part of the station so long that it has become an essential part of its plan of operation and is connected with many investigations and demonstrations in the field of agriculture.

"Administration of these laws by the station not only has become an established legislative mers of the state and the general policy of the state but also has met with the approval of the far public," the resolution points out. "The suggested changes not only would be expensive to the state but also would tend to lessen the protection which it is now possible to give farmers," the board declared.

The fertilizer law has been administered by the institution for more than 33 years, the feed law for 16 years and the pure seed law for five years.

Icy Inspiration

As I sit here pounding rhymes, I can feel the winter breezes. And they seem to say "twice enemas, 'Bette' wear thick beaverdresses." —Vanderburg News.

Seventy-Eight Convictions For Wet Law Breaches

Covington, Dec. 19—Sawyer A. Smith, United States district attorney at Covington, and Rodney G. Bryan, assistant district attorney, returned from Catlettsburg where Judge A. M. J. Cochran disposed of the largest criminal docket which has ever been presented at a term of court in the eastern district. There were 106 convictions, 78 of which were for violation of the prohibition laws.

Today's Produce Prices

Quoted and paid by Renaker Brothers.
Eggs 40 cents doz.
Hens 13 cents lb
Roosters 7 cents lb
Geese 14 cents lb
Ducks 15 cents lb
Young Guineas 50c head
Old Guineas 30c head
Beef Hides 6 cents lb